Recommendations of National Commission on Rural Labour

1806. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission on Rural Labour had made a number of recommendations for the improvement of working and living conditions of the unorganised rural labour;

(b) if so, whether each of those recommendations have been implemented; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A Statement is attached.

Statement

The National Commission on Rural Labour (NCRL) has submitted its report on 31st July, 1991. Broadly, the NCRL has highlighted the need for achievement of two major goals for the rural labour, namely improvement in their levels of living and ensuring their effective participation in the developmental process. To achieve this, the NCRL has emphasised further strengthening and improvement, *inter-alia* of land base; agricultural growth, employment guarantee programme, infrastructure for rural industries, human resource development and provision of basic needs, social security, organisational aspects of rural labour and effective participation of rural labour in the decision-making process through democrative decentralisation.

2. Some of the major recommendations of the NCRL are as follows:

(i) Free and compulsory education for all children upto the age of 14,

(ii) Prohibition of child labour in all occupations and processes,

(iii) A "National Credit Fund for Women" for poor women so that they could get credit without any collateral security upto specified financial limit,

(iv) Fixation of a National basic minimum wage of R. 20 per day at December, 1990 prices and a provision for increase of wages automatically every six months on the basis of rise in the Consumer Price Index (CPI),

(v) Self-employment programme like the IRDP by linking them to area development plans to be formulated by the elected institutions within the scheme of decentralisation.

(vi) Ban on labour-displacing mechanisation in agriculture, like the use of Combine Harvesters,

(vii) A more concerted policy to assist and provide relief to the migrant labour,

(viii) Credit for consumption to rural labour families at lower rate of interest,

(ix) Easier accessibility of institutional credit to rural labour households through Cooperative Banks.

LEGISLATURE MEASURES:

(x) Right to work as Fundamental Right with certain qualifications and an Employment Guarantee Act to implement this.

(xi) A comprehensive Central legislation for agricultural labour providing for their protection and welfare.

(xii) A National Commission for Bonded Labour functioning as a quasi-judicial Authority to oversee and monitor the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act, 1976.

(xiii) A model legislation for protection of homebased workers and their welfare.

(xiv) Land Tribunals at the local level for speedy disposals of land reforms cases.

INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISM FOR IMPLEMENTATION:

(xv) Active involvement of the Panchayati Raj institutions in the implementation of various recommendations of the NCRL.

(xvi) A separate Department of Rural Labour at the Centre and in the State with an independent Directorate or Rural Labour in the States to deal with all aspects of Rural Labour.

3. The recommendations relating to a Central legislation for Agricultural Workers, a Central Legislation for Construction Workers, social security and constitution of a Commission on Bonded Labour have been referred to a Committee of State Labour Ministers headed by Labour Minister of Maharashtra for consideration and early report to the Government.

4. All Ministries/Departments concerned with specific recommendations have duly examined the recommendations. Implementation of these recommendations in consultation with the State Govts. Wherever necessary, is a continuing process. A Report on the action taken by various Ministries was laid on the Table of the House in its winter session of 1992 in fulfilment of Assurance given during Short Duration Discussion on the condition of Rural Labour in the Country on 4-8-1992.

Rise in Unemployment Amongst Educated Youth

1807. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item published in "The Hindustan Times" dated the 24th July, 1993 captioned "9 million educated to be jobless by 1977";

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating observations made in the study report by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research (IAMR) recently;

(c) whether there was a backlog of 7 million educated unemployed in April, 1992 as observed by Dr. T.S. Papola, Adviser to the Planning Commission on Labour, Employment and Manpower recently; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take or have taken so far to check the growing unemployment amongst educated youth of the country by the end of Eighth Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to a study by the Institute of Applied Manpower Research entitled "Status Paper on Educated Unemployment in India (December 1992)", the number of educated unemployed persons would be 8.72 million in 1997. This figure has been arrived on the basis of (i) an estimated backlog of educated unemployed of 6 million in 1992; (ii) addition to educated labour force of 16.10 million during 1992-97; and (iii) estimated additional requirements of educated persons of 13.38 million during 1992-97.

(c) and (d) According to estimates by the Planning Commission, the backlog of open unemployment in the beginning of the Eighth Plan was 17 million, of which 7 million were estimated to be educated. Addition to educated labour force is estimated to be 17.5 million during 1992-97. The Eighth Plan envisages an employment-oriented strategy of growth with the goal of achieving near full employment by 2002 AD. The Plan is expected to generate additional employment opportunities to the tune of 43 million of which about 20 million are likely to be for the educated. The number of educated unemployed at the end of the Eighth Plan, on this basis, is likely to be around 4 to 5 million.

Ramanujam Committee's Recommendations On New Industrial Relations Law

1808. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present stage of discussion/implementation of the Ramanujam Committee's recommendations on the new Industrial Relations Law, including amendments of the Trade Unions Act and the Industrial Disputes Act, particularly in the light of the Ramanujam Committee's Report; and